

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 A collaborative electronic mail system is integrated into traditional
3 electronic mail on the server end. The collaborative electronic mail allows users
4 to have online discussions without the clutter of numerous related individual
5 electronic mails in the inbox. The collaborative electronic mail system discussed
6 herein describes the extensions used in the server infrastructure to distribute the
7 collaborative electronic mail. Different embodiments support different server
8 configurations, including configurations where copies of a collaborative electronic
9 mail message are maintained at each server associated with a recipient or author of
10 the collaborative electronic mail message, as well as configurations where a single
11 copy of a collaborative electronic mail message is maintained at a centralized
12 location.

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